

## Message Text

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 L-03 COME-00  
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY OPIC/GC:AMARRA:ME  
APPROVED BY EB/IFD/OIA:RDKAUZLARICH  
EB/IFD/OIA:DHSTEBBING  
AF/W:BKIRKPATRICK  
OPIC/ID:CMIDDLETON  
AID/ENGR/OPNS:JZEDALIS  
-----040001Z 117672 /15  
P 032307Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJECT: MORRISON KNUDSEN EQUIPMENT

REF: COTONOU 736 C

1. FOLLOWING INFO REFTEL, OPIC CONTACTED M-K DIRECTOR OF PROJECT FINANCING, I.G. POOL, TO ASCERTAIN HQ EVALUATION OF BENIN SITUATION. HQ IS CLEARLY CONCERNED BUT YET NOT AS ALARMED AS LOCAL M-K REP.

2. HQ WANTS TO SETTLE MATTER UNDER TERMS OF APRIL 13 AGREEMENT. EUROPEAN REP. OF M-K SUCCEEDED IN MEETING BABA-MOUSSA IN PARIS TO DISCUSS CONTINUED IMPOUNDMENT OF EQUIPMENT. BABA-MOUSSA WAS REPORTEDLY DISGUSTED BY SITUATION, SAID HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO WITHDRAW GUARDS FROM  
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CAMP, BUT PROMISED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION WHEN HE RETURNS TO BENIN.

3. M-K WILL INFORMALLY NOTIFY OPIC VIA EMBASSY OF OCCURRENCE OF GPRB ACTION WHICH MAY GIVE RISE TO EVENT OF RECOVERY UNDER OPIC INSURANCE POLICY. OPIC POLICY REQUIRES SUCH ADVANCE NOTICE. NOTE THAT THIS IS NOT A FORMAL CLAIM,

BUT ADVANCE WARNING TO OPIC OF A POTENTIAL CLAIM.

4. FYI EMBASSY: UNDER OPIC POLICY SIX MONTHS MUST ELAPSE FROM THE INITIATION OF THE GPRB ACTION BEFORE M-K CAN PRESENT OPIC WITH FORMAL CLAIM. M-K DATES GPRB ACTION TO DECEMBER 76 IMPOUNDMENT. THUS EARLIEST M-K COULD PRESENT CLAIM WOULD BE IN JUNE. END FYI.

5. EMBASSY CAN NOW EXPECT M-K TO ASK EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING IMPASSE WITH GPRB. EMBASSY MAY RENDER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE.

6. FOLLOWING PREPARATION OF ABOVE, OPIC RECEIVED COPY OF TELEX LETTER ADDRESSED TO EMBASSY FROM WILKINSON OF M-K. MAX OF M-K WAS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER LETTER TO EMBASSY. LETTER ALLEGES CERTAIN ACTS OF GPRB RESULTING IN SEIZURE OF M-K PROPERTY WHICH OPIC HAS NOT CONCEDED. OPIC HAS ASKED M-K FOR FULL CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS WHICH IT WILL SEND TO EMBASSY FOR COMMENTS AND VIEWS. OPIC DOES NOT CONCUR WITH APPARENT ASSUMPTION OF PARA. 5 OF TELEX LETTER THAT M-K IS NOW ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION FOR FINANCIAL DAMAGES. ASSUMING M-K ALLEGATIONS ARE TRUE, EARLIEST M-K COULD SUBMIT CLAIM TO OPIC IS JUNE 77 AS PER PARA. 4 ABOVE. IF BLOCKADE ENDS BY JUNE, NO CLAIM WILL BE ACCEPTED BY OPIC.

7. REQUEST FUTURE CABLES ON THIS MATTER NOT BE SENT ACTION AID, BUT BY STATE CABLE WITH COPIES TO AID AND OPIC. DECONTROL 5/2/78.

VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CLAIMS, INVESTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE100149  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AMARRA:ME  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Message ID:** e9c7309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN OPIC  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 COTONOU 736  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2652285  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MORRISON KNUDSEN EQUIPMENT  
**TAGS:** EINV, DM, OPIC, MORRISON-KNUDSEN  
**To:** COTONOU  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e9c7309b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009